

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION



Enclosure 2  
May 17, 2012

**Meeting**

RIDE

Thursday, May 3, 2012 - 4:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**Attending:** George Caruolo (chairman), Robert Carothers, Patrick Guida,  
Mat Santos, Betsy Shimberg

**Absent:** Lorne Adrain, Carolina Bernal, Colleen Callahan, Karin Forbes

**The meeting convened at 4:35 p.m.**

Chairman Caruolo welcomed everyone and asked for a motion to accept the agenda.

**Acceptance of Agenda**

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary  
Education accept the day's agenda.

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members  
voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, R. Carothers, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

**Approval of Minutes**

On a motion duly made by Guida and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary  
Education approve the minutes of the

April 5, 2012 – Board of Regents Meeting  
April 5, 2012 – Board of Regents Executive Session  
April 19, 2012 – Board of Regents Work Session

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative (Regent Guida requested that the minutes of the April 5<sup>th</sup> BOR Executive Session be amended to reflect that the minutes were voted to be sealed) and 0 members voted in the negative, as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, R. Carothers, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

### **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Gist gave an update on the following:

#### **State of Education Address before the General Assembly**

Commissioner Gist began by thanking the Regents who, along with many district leaders, parents, teachers, and students, were able to join her that past Tuesday as she delivered her 3<sup>rd</sup> annual State of Education Address to the General Assembly.

#### **RTTT Federal Monitoring Visit**

Next, she shared that the previous week a team from the U.S. Department of Education came to Rhode Island for an on-site review of our Race to the Top initiative.

The four members of the team spent three days at RIDE and then visited three school districts – Jamestown, Lincoln, and Providence – to get an idea of how Race to the Top is taking hold at the district and school level.

During their visit, they delved deeply into every aspect of RIDE's work plan:

- educator evaluations,
- study of the standards,
- formative and interim assessments,
- support for innovative schools and charter public schools,
- STEM initiatives,
- accessing and using data,
- alternative certification,
- educator recruitment,
- professional development,

- induction,
- leadership, and
- school turnaround, and the overall management of the grant, including performance management, communications and outreach to the field, and budget and finance.

The feedback received so far has been positive, and RIDE is addressing the challenges that have arisen as we implement the grant.

### **Green Ribbon School National Awards**

At the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the BOR had the pleasure of recognizing three Providence schools as recipients of the RI Green School National Ribbon.

Since then, two of those schools, Classical High School and Nathan Bishop Middle School, have been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as among the first-ever National Green Ribbon Schools.

Green Ribbon Schools are high-quality learning environments and they save taxpayer dollars - through economies during construction and through long-term savings on energy and utility costs.

Green Ribbon Schools such as Classical and Nathan Bishop can also serve as models for student explorations in science, ecology, engineering, and other career and technical fields.

Rhode Island has been a leader in the green-school movement, and we're proud that, among the 78 Green Ribbon Schools in the country, two are from our state.

### **Necessity of School Construction Applications**

RIDE's School Construction Program is currently working with 3 districts (Chariho, Middletown, and Portsmouth) that are targeting a June 2012 Board of Regents approval of their districts' Necessity of School Construction applications.

The Board of Regents reviews and certifies Necessity of School Construction projects for district-owned schools reimbursed through the Housing Aid process.

All projects have undergone rigorous review under the multistage necessity-of-school-construction process and are in compliance with the school-construction regulations.

The General Assembly enacted legislation that placed a moratorium on new school-construction approvals between June 30, 2011, and June 30, 2014, with the exception of projects that are necessitated by immediate health and safety reasons.

Each district worked with registered building professionals to reduce the scopes of work to address only immediate health and safety issues, and the scopes of work were also confirmed by an independent peer review conducted by RIDE professional staff.

Pending release from the Senate and House Finance Committees, we will review these projects at your May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and request final approval at your June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Central Falls Update**

Next, Commissioner Gist gave an update on the work going in Central Falls since RIDE's last update to the BOR at its April 19<sup>th</sup> Work Session.

Since then, RIDE has met with representatives from the Governor's office, the Central Falls Board of Trustees, and the Central Falls Schools to discuss implementation of the Order.

During the time that the Order is in effect, Jennifer Smith, RIDE's Chief Transformation Officer, will assume a temporary role that will have her working from the Central Falls School District.

Deputy Abbott will take on the responsibility of contract negotiations in Central Falls, and Carolyn Dias, RIDE's Chief of Fiscal Integrity and Efficiencies, will have overall responsibility for developing the Central Falls School Department budget and administering the financial operations of the district.

### **Proposed Certification Tests and Passing Scores**

At your April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, you approved, for the purpose of public hearing, the Proposed Certification Tests and Passing Scores of the 46 different certification tests to assess the pedagogical and content knowledge of prospective R.I. educators.

The public-comment period for this proposal continues until May 11, 2012.

RIDE held a public hearing to receive comment on this proposal on April 25, but no one appeared to provide comment.

To date, RIDE has received 2 two items of public comment and will continue to compile any additional public comment until the May 11<sup>th</sup> deadline.

This will be a topic of discussion at the May 17<sup>th</sup> BOR meeting.

### **Innovation Powered by Technology Grant –**

Earlier this year, RIDE issued an RFP for the Innovation Powered by Technology grant, which will enable a school to transform itself through the use of technology.

RIDE received 12 applications and will be announcing the winning school at a news conference, tentatively scheduled for Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.

The winning school will become a “proof point” that will provide ideas and inspiration for other schools across the state that are embracing technology as a tool for changing the traditional classroom and the school day.

### **Public Remarks**

Elaine Waller – spoke in opposition to the BOR Appeals Committee recommendation to the Board of Regents.

Cristian Giraldo and Diana Giraldo – Siblings and students at the Blackstone Academy Charter School, shared their positive educational experiences at the school.

Kyleen Carpenter and Carolyn Sheehan – Co-Founders and Administrators of the Blackstone Academy Charter School, spoke in support of the recommended renewal of its charter.

Allen Zipke – Director at the Compass School, spoke in support of the recommended renewal of its charter.

Gayle Gifford – Blackstone Academy Charter School Board Member, spoke in support of the recommended renewal of its charter.

### **Chairman’s Remarks**

Chairman Caruolo reported that while attending a recent 2-day very intensive Governors Education Conference, he walked away feeling impressed, and ultimately gratified, by how Rhode Island is absolutely at the forefront and focused on the education activity, reform, innovation, and trial and error in America, a testimony to Commissioner Gist, RIDE staff, and Regents, both current and past. The state of R.I. is trying very hard using significant resources, the best available information, talent, and thought trying to lift up the level of our schools.

### **Discussion Items**

There were no discussion items.

### **Approval Items**

#### **a. Approval of the Draft of the Board of Regents Regulations Governing Virtual Learning in Rhode Island for the Purpose of Public Comment**

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Santos, it was

<b>VOTED:</b>	That	the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education approves, for the purpose of public comment, the Draft of the Board of Regents Regulations Governing Virtual Learning Education in Rhode Island, as presented.
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Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, R. Carothers, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0

**b. Renewal of the Charter of the Blackstone Academy Charter School**

On a motion duly made by Regent Santos and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education renews the Charter of the Blackstone Academy Charter School for a five (5) year term, to operate in accordance with the renewed Charter from the 2012-13 school year to the 2016-17 school year, as presented.

Vote: 5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, R. Carothers, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg

NAYS: 0.

**c. Renewal of the Charter of the Compass School**

Prior to asking for a motion, Chairman Caruolo shared that the Chariho School district, through its attorney, John Anderson, sent a letter to the Commissioner and to the BOR raising some issues on the adequacy of RIDE's review concerning the Charter renewal. Although not pleased by the lateness of the letter, Chairman Caruolo recommended that the Compass School renewal recommendation be tabled until the May 17, 2012, meeting, allowing RIDE the opportunity to investigate and respond to the issues that were raised in the letter before a vote is taken.

On a motion duly made by Regent Shimberg and seconded by Regent Santos, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education table, by two (2) weeks, the motion to renew the Charter of the Compass School, and to turn the May 17<sup>th</sup> BOR Work Session into a regular meeting

Vote: 4 members voted in the affirmative and 1 member voted in the negative as follows:

YEAS: G. Caruolo, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg,

NAYS: R. Carothers

**d. Renewal of the Charter of the New England Laborers’/Cranston Public School Career and Construction Academy Charter School**

Chairman Caruolo asked for a motion, but first shared that some questions have recently arisen around some student funding at the school, which RIDE needs to address with the school prior to a vote taking place.

He then asked for a motion to table the renewal for 1 month.

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Santos, it was

<b>VOTED:</b>	That	the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education table, for one (1) month, the motion to renew the Charter of the New England Laborers’/Cranston Public Schools Career and Construction Academy Charter School
	Vote:	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	G. Caruolo, R. Carothers, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg
	NAYS:	0

**e. Approval of Appeals Committee Recommendations**

**E. Doe v. East Providence School Department**

Regent Santos, Chair of the BOR Appeals Committee, shared that the Committee still had a couple of troubling concerns with the recommendation, and requested that it be allowed to reconvene to further discuss the case.

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

<b>VOTED:</b>	That	the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education table for one (1) month the motion to approve the BOR Appeals Committee Recommendation of the E. Doe v. East Providence School Department
	Vote:	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	G. Caruolo, R. Carothers, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg
	NAYS:	0

### **A. Doe v. Lincoln School Department**

Neil Galvin, Counsel to the BOR, requested by since both the East Providence and Lincoln cases are similar in nature that the Committee be allowed to reconvene to further discuss it.

On a motion duly made by Regent Guida and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

<b>VOTED:</b>	That	the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education table for one (1) month the motion to approve the BOR Appeals Committee Recommendation of the A. Doe v. Lincoln School Department
	Vote:	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	G. Caruolo, R. Carothers, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg
	NAYS:	0

On a motion duly made by Regent Carothers and seconded by Regent Shimberg, it was

<b>VOTED:</b>	That	the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education adjourn the meeting.
	Vote:	5 members voted in the affirmative and 0 members voted in the negative as follows:
	YEAS:	G. Caruolo, R. Carothers, P. Guida, M. Santos, B. Shimberg
	NAYS:	0

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.